

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 /016 R

DRAFTED BY SCA/SCS/JFHUGHES/CEH

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EA/ANP:PETER MORRISSEY (INFO)

----- 011073

P 062035Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS STATE 044927

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, (WELLER, GEORGE)

SUBJECT: W/W GEORGE WELLER

REF: CANBERRA 1273

EMBASSY REQUESTED DO ALL POSSIBLE INCREASE AUSTRIALIAN ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING GEORGE WELLER WHO ACCORDING HIS COUSIN'S INFORMATION NOW OVERDUE PORT MORESBY AND MELBOURNE. AS EMBASSY AWARE WELLER IS HIGHLY RESPECTED JOURNALIST, RETIRED MIDDLE EAST BUREAU CHIEF CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, AND PUTLIZER PRIZE WINNER. BROTHER AND COUSIN LIKELY TO BRING CASE ATENTION NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, CHIDAILY NEWS, PROMINENT JOURNALISTS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHICH COULD CREATE UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY.

CONSUL GENERAL PALERMO, NOW IN DEPT TEMPORARILY, WROTE POLITICAL OFFICER THOMAS CONLON LAST OCTOBER ABOUT WELLER AUSTRALIAN TRIP AND HOPES CONLON WILL TAKE PERSONAL INTEREST IN CASE.

COUSIN REPORTS FEB 11 LETTER FROM LAE INDICATES WELLER COMPLETED TOUR NEW BRITAIN ISLAND, TRAVELING BY TRAWLER AND UNCLASSIFIED

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OPEN BOAT, VISITING PRIMITIVE MEN OF HIGHLANDS AND SEPIK

RIVER ON NORTH COAST. HE WAS SUFFERING FROM SUNBURN, PAINFUL PRICKLY HEAT EXHAUSTION. FAMILY FEARS HE MAY BE ILL OR WORSE AS RESULT BUKA INCIDENT IN AREA WHERE NO MEDICAL ATTENTION AVAILABLE. WELLER IS 66 YEARS OLD. HE MAY BE IN RABAU, TRINIDAD OR FLY AT CATHOLIC MISSIONS IF ANY ARE LOCATED THOSE AREAS. KISSINGER

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